



January 18, 2019

Dear Parents,

Mathematics is an essential part of your child's education at school and at home.

National Core Standards identify what students should learn at each grade level and these standards are addressed on our report cards. The Everyday Mathematics program that is used in Grosse Pointe Public Schools does a good job of teaching to these standards. In our classroom, students are pretested for each unit and lessons are differentiated to meet the needs of the diverse learners in our classroom. We use a workshop rotation model to allow instruction to take place in small groups. Students rotate in small groups to direct instruction with me, a math game that applies skills being taught (sometimes on the computer and sometimes a game with manipulatives), and problem solving challenges and independent practice of skills in a workbook.

You can help with your child's development of math understanding by assisting with the daily Home Link assignment. At the top of each page is a "Family Note" that briefly explains the lesson taught that day in class. **Encourage your child to teach you the day's math lesson** using the problems on the Home Link. Ask questions about the steps your child uses to solve a problem, such as "Why did you put that number there?" or "What does that zero mean?" Although it's tempting to give children answers when they're confused, they learn more if you help them discover the answers for themselves. Try doing this with questions such as these:

- Have you seen problems like this before? Is there an example anywhere that might help?
- What is the problem asking you to do or find?
- What's one idea you have for finding an answer?
- Can you draw a picture of the problem? Can you use objects (like coins, beans, and so forth) to show the problem?

**Let your child know that every mistake is an opportunity to learn.** When your child makes a mistake, ask him or her to explain how he or she arrived at the answer, give praise for the correct steps or thinking, and gently point out where the error occurred. Then have your child try a similar problem (you may have to make one up) to practice the new understanding. **All errors on the Home Link should be corrected at home before the child brings the Home Link back to school.** It is not possible for me to meet with every child individually to review errors during the school day.

At this point in the year, most children should be very close to mastering the addition facts if they have not already mastered them. If that is not the case for your child, please set aside time to **practice these basic facts on a daily basis**. There are a number of iPad apps and online games to help with that. We took a fact power test this week and I will get that score to you on Tuesday.

All of the children can benefit from regular practice in counting coins and telling time.

Thank you for partnering with me to help your child develop into the best possible mathematician they can be! Good math skills will serve them well for their entire life!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Glenda Lassiter